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Message Text

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43
ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CPR-02 USIA-12 NASA-04 OPR-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 PA-03 PRS-01

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R 200856 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6779

UNCLAS OSLO 2265

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: TSPA, OTRA, (SCHMITT, DR. HARRISON H.), NO
SUBJECT: APOLLO 17 LUNAR SAMPLE PRESENTATION

REF: (A) STATE 113609 (B) OSLO 528

1. I REGARD THE APOLLO 17 LUNAR SAMPLE PLAQUE (REF A)
AS AN EXCELLENT INITIATIVE AND PROPOSE TO DEAL WITH IT IN
THE CONTEXT OF AN INVITATION TO ASTRONAUT HARRISON SCHMITT
TO VISIT OSLO IN LATE SEPTEMBER. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, THE
HEADS OF SIX LEADING SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS IN NORWAY
EXTENDED AN INVITATION LAST FEBRUARY TO DR. SCHMITT TO VISIT
OSLO. DR. SCHMITT STUDIED AT THE MINERALOGICAL- GEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM IN OSLO AS A FULBRIGHT STUDENT SOME YEARS BACK, AND
THE DIRECTOR OF THAT MUSEUM, DR. KNUT HEIER, IS AMONG THE
SIX WHO EXTENDED THE INVITATION. DR. HEIER AND HIS STAFF
HAVE ALSO BEEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON LUNAR SAMPLES.

2. THE FEBRUARY INVITATION TO DR. SCHMITT (REF B) SUGGESTED
A VISIT IN MAY OR SEPTEMBER. THE MAY DATE PROVED TO BE
IMPOSSIBLE FOR DR. SCHMITT BECAUSE OF OTHER NASA COMMITMENTS ,
BUT THE SIX NOWEGIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE RECONFIRMED THEIR
INVITATION, SUGGESTING THAT DR. SCHMITT DELIVER A LECTURE
IN OSLO ON SEPTEMBER 26. I WROTE TO NASA ADMINISTRATOR JAMES
C. FLETCHER ON JUNE 12 INFORMING HIM OF THE RENEWED INVITATION
AND ENDORSING A SCHMITT VISIT TO OSLO.
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3. I AM CONVINCED THAT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE APOLLO 17 PLAQUE WOULD RECEIVE FAR GREATER MEDIA COVERAGE IF DR. SCHMITT WERE PRESENT. THE MEDIA COULD BE COUNTED ON TO FOCUS ON DR. SCHMITT' S STUDIES HERE AND ON THE CONTINUING PARTICIPATION OF DR. HEIER AND HIS STAFF IN LUNAR SAMPLE RESEARCH.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT URGE NASA TO DECIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT DR. SCHMITT WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO VISIT OSLO IN SEPTEMBER.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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